

## GUNS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, according to the Office of Justice Programs, 40 percent of women killed with firearms are murdered by an intimate partner. In 1996, Congress passed legislation to deny firearms purchases to individuals who were under a domestic violence restraining order or convicted of a domestic violence misdemeanor. Despite the passage of this law many people are slipping through the system. For example, according to a November 1999 Washington Post article, a background check failed to discover that a Maryland man was the subject of a domestic violence restraining order that his wife had obtained. As a result, he was able to purchase a gun and he later shot his 3-year-old daughter and 2-year-old son.

To help prevent such tragedies, Congress established the National Criminal History Improvement Program in 1995 to provide funding to assist States in compiling criminal records and establishing identification systems as well as developing a comprehensive national record system. One of the goals of the NCHIP program is to ensure that accurate records are available to law enforcement to identify ineligible firearm purchasers. The NCHIP program has put special emphasis on ensuring that domestic violence-related offenses are included in criminal records. As the Washington Post article suggests, there is still work to be done. In fact, according to a January 2002 study released by Americans for Gun Safety, only 30 States have automated records of both domestic violence misdemeanors and domestic violence restraining orders. Fifteen States have no automated records of domestic violence misdemeanors and 13 States have no automated records of domestic violence restraining orders.

I have long supported programs that will ensure that guns do not get into the hands of criminals, as well as individuals under domestic violence restraining orders. The NICS system of background checks for gun purchases has already blocked more than 400,000 gun sales to ineligible persons. Continuing the NCHIP grant program will help make America safer by ensuring that the criminal background information is complete, accurate and accessible. This improves our ability to prevent people who commit violent acts against their family from purchasing firearms.●

## LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

• Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of last year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred in September 1997

in Waupaca, WI. A gay man was beaten because of his sexual orientation. The assailants, Jeffery S. Schucknecht, 26, and Robert G. Guyette, 23, were charged with felony battery and a hate crime in connection with the incident. I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.●

## MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

## EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. INOUE, from the Committee on Indian Affairs:

Report to accompany S. 1857, A bill to Encourage the Negotiated Settlement of Tribal Claims. (Rept. No. 107-138).

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. WARNER:

S. 1957. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for additional designations of renewal communities; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MCCAIN:

S. 1958. A bill to provide a restructured and rationalized rail passenger system that provides efficient service on viable routes; to eliminate budget deficits and management inefficiencies at Amtrak through the establishment of an Amtrak Control Board; to allow for the privatization of Amtrak; to increase the role of State and private entities in rail passenger service; and, to promote competition and improve rail passenger service opportunities; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 1959. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the former Eagledale Ferry Dock in the State of Washington for potential inclusion in the National Park System; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. FITZGERALD, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 1960. A bill to amend the Biomass Research and Development Act of 2000 to en-

courage production of biobased energy products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. JEFFORDS, and Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire):

S. 1961. A bill to improve financial and environmental sustainability of the water programs of the United States; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. SMITH of Oregon):

S. 1962. A bill to provide for qualified withdrawals from the Capital Construction Fund for fishermen leaving the industry for the rollover of Capital Construction Funds to individual retirement plans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida:

S. 1963. A bill to prohibit the use of arsenic-treated lumber to manufacture playground equipment, children's products, fences, walkways, and decks, and for all other residential purposes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. REED):

S. Res. 211. A resolution designating March 2, 2002, as "Read Across America Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. Con. Res. 98. A concurrent resolution commemorating the 30th anniversary of the inauguration of Sino-American relations and the sale of the first commercial jet aircraft to China; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 77

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 77, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 913

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 913, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the medicare program of all oral anticancer drugs.

S. 969

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 969, a bill to establish a Tick-Borne Disorders Advisory Committee, and for other purposes.

S. 1084

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1084, a bill to prohibit the importation